

# HARGROVE, SMELLEY & STRICKLAND

JOSEPH L. HARGROVE, JR.  
DAVID L. SMELLEY  
PAUL A. STRICKLAND  
GLENN L. LANGLEY  
LOUISE F. PEARCE

OF COUNSEL  
WILLIAM G. CONLY

(A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION)  
AMERICAN TOWER, SUITE 600  
401 MARKET STREET

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101-3239

December 20, 2004

THOMAS J. WYATT (1942-1996)

MAILING ADDRESS  
POST OFFICE BOX 59  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71161-0059  
TELEPHONE (318) 429-7200  
TELECOPIER (318) 429-7201

Honorable James H. Welsh  
Commissioner of Conservation  
State of Louisiana  
Post Office Box 44275  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4275

Re: APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Cotton Valley Formation, Reservoir B, BEAR CREEK  
FIELD, Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

Dear Sir:

EL PASO PRODUCTION COMPANY ("Applicant") hereby respectfully applies for a public hearing to consider evidence relative to the issuance of an Order pertaining to the following matters relating to the Cotton Valley Formation, Reservoir B, in the Bear Creek Field, Bienville Parish, Louisiana:

1. To create one (1) additional drilling and production unit for the exploration for and production of gas and condensate from the Cotton Valley Formation, Reservoir B, such unit being designated CV RB SUE and being shown on the attached plat.
2. To force pool and integrate all separately owned tracts, mineral leases and other property interests within the proposed additional unit with each separate tract sharing in unit production on a surface acreage basis of participation.
3. To designate Applicant as operator of the proposed additional unit.
4. To designate the El Paso Production Company--EL Cummings 34 No. 1 Well as the unit well for the proposed additional unit, said well being located as shown on the attached plat.
5. To extend, except as in conflict herewith, the pertinent provisions of the Office of Conservation Order No. 78-O series of Orders, to the proposed additional unit.
6. To consider such other matters as may be pertinent.

The Cotton Valley Formation in the Bear Creek Field, Bienville Parish, Louisiana, was defined in Office of Conservation Order No. 78-O, effective June 1, 1968.

Pertinent data concerning this application is available for inspection at the offices of Louis Gilbert & Associates, Inc., 3636 N. Causeway Boulevard, Suite 204, Metairie, Louisiana 70002-

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7216. Any person desiring to inspect such data should call Mr. Louis Gilbert at (504) 834-8112 during normal business hours in order to arrange a date and time for such inspection. A copy of any such data which is not otherwise available from the Office of Conservation can be obtained from Applicant at the expense of the requesting party.

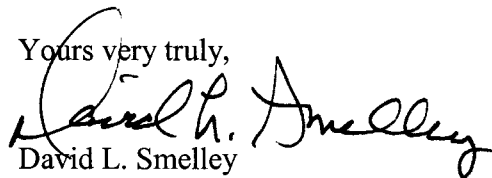
By letter dated December 8, 2004, Applicant gave notice, in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure, of its intention to apply for a public hearing concerning these proposals and set December 29, 2004, as the tentative date for the pre-application conference. No request for the pre-application conference was received; accordingly, no pre-application conference was held.

Pursuant to the Revised Rules of Procedure, Applicant has made a reasonable effort to obtain the names and addresses of all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties to whom notice of this application is being sent and has attached hereto a list of the names and addresses of such parties. A copy of the unit plat (which is identical to the unit plat attached to the pre-application notice) is enclosed herewith, and a copy of this letter and of the attached plat is being sent to the District Manager of the Shreveport District of the Office of Conservation and to each of the Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties as shown on the attached list.

Applicant will provide for posting of a copy of the Legal Notice of this hearing, and of the enclosed plat, at a prominent place in the area affected and will cause publication of the Legal Notice in a newspaper published in the general area of Bear Creek Field, all in accordance with the Revised Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, Applicant will mail a copy of the Legal Notice to all Interested Owners, Represented Parties and Interested Parties promptly upon receipt of the Legal Notice from the Commissioner.

Finally, enclosed herewith is our check payable to the Office of Conservation covering the application fee.

Yours very truly,



David L. Smelley

Attorney for El Paso Production Company

DLS:dp

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jim Broussard (w/encls.)  
Mr. Jerry McAnulty (w/encls.)  
Mr. Louis Gilbert (w/encls.)  
Interested Owners, Represented Parties  
and Interested Parties (w/copy of plat only)

